

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 SAA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /095 W  
-----017174 041243Z /44

P 031730Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3938  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED EASING OF IDF EXEMPTION FOR RELIGIOUS GIRLS COULD  
HURT COALITION

1. THE ALIGNMENT AND SHELLI PARTIES WILL JOIN FORCES IN  
THE KNESSET JULY 4 TO INTRODUCE A MOTION OF NON-CONFIDENCE  
OVER AN AMENDMENT THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO THE LAW ON  
CONSCRIPTION OF WOMEN. UNDER TERMS OF THE COALITION  
AGREEMENT, AGUDAT YISRAEL (AY) WAS PROMISED GOVERNMENT  
SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCEDURE FOR  
RELIGIOUS GIRLS IN OBTAINING EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE.  
AY INSISTS THAT GIRLS SHOULD ONLY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A  
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SWORN STATEMENT OBJECTING TO SERVING ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS  
INSTEAD OF THE EXISTING REQUIREMENT OF APPEARING BEFORE  
AN EXAMINING PANEL.

2. THE ISSUE HAS JARRED THE RAW NERVE OF RELIGION VERSUS  
SECULARISM IN THIS COUNTRY AND PROVOKED A SHARP PUBLIC  
DEBATE. FOR EXAMPLE, TWELFTH-GRADE GIRLS FROM SEVERAL

LEADING HIGH SCHOOLS, WHO ARE ABOUT TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE IDF, HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST THE PROPOSED EASING OF EXEMPTIONS AND DEMANDED EQUIVALENT NATIONAL SERVICE FOR GIRLS EXEMPT FROM THE ARMY, A PROPOSAL RECENTLY ECHOED BY NRP MINISTER OF EDUCATION HAMMER. THE ATTACK BY ALIGNMENT AND SHELLI ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT WILL CHARGE THAT, IN ANTICIPATION OF NEW LEGISLATION, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS ALREADY EASED THE PROCEDURE, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN INCREASED EXEMPTIONS AND A SERIOUS WEAKENING OF IDF'S WOMAN-POWER SITUATION. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE CITED REMARKS BY CHIEF OF STAFF EITAN THAT ENACTMENT WILL REQUIRE EXTENDING THE RESERVE OBLIGATION TO AGE 38 FOR WOMEN THAT DO SERVE.

3. THE POTENTIAL OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE NO CONFIDENCE MOTION AND EXPECTED INTRODUCTION OF THE AMENDMENT BILL IS CONSIDERABLE. PURSUANT TO ITS COALITION AGREEMENT, THE DMC WILL ALLOW ITS MK'S TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCES ON THE NO CONFIDENCE MOTION (SINCE IT IS A RELIGIOUS ISSUE), AND FEW OF THEM ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. THE LIKUD ITSELF IS DIVIDED, WITH SEVERAL MK'S POINTING TO THE ANOMALY OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS NATIONALISM COOPERATING IN A MOVE THAT COULD WEAKEN THE IDF. ON THE OTHER HAND, AY HAS SERVED NOTICE THAT IT WILL LEAVE THE COALITION IF IT DOES NOT GET ITS AMENDMENT. ASIDE FROM THE DMC, THE WHIP WILL BE CRACKED FOR STRICT PARTY DISCIPLINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN THE COALITION TOMORROW TO INSURE DEFEAT OF THE NO CONFIDENCE VOTE. BUT UNLESS SOME COMPROMISE IS FOUND, PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT LEGISLATION COULD CAUSE INCREASED AGITATION IN THE TROUBLED DMC TO LEAVE THE GOVERNMENT; WHILE FAILURE OF THE AMENDMENT MIGHT MEAN RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE AY PARTY FROM THE COALITION. LEWIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, CONSCRIPTION, WOMEN, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, AMENDMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV08328  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780275-0405  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780798/aaaadeuj.tel  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** c7c17c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2123411  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED EASING OF IDF EXEMPTION FOR RELIGIOUS GIRLS COULD HURT COALITION  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, SHUM, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c7c17c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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